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Union Leader File Photo

PAM SMART during her 1991 trial.

Detective Questions Latest Appeal

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DERRY — Daniel Pelletier was a Derry police sergeant in the spring of 1990 when Gregory Smart was found murdered in his Misty Morning Drive condominium.

Pelletier was part of the investigating team that arrested three Seabrook teens for the crime five weeks later.

And he was one of the officers who listened as another Seabrook teen, Cecelia Pierce, got Smart's widow, Pamela, to talk about how the crime was to unfold.

And Pelletier was among the officers who led Pamela Smart out of the school department offices in Hampton in handcuffs when she was ar-

rested for orchestrating her 24-year-old husband's murder.

Any doubt in his mind about her guilt?

"None," Detective Pelletier said with a laugh. "Absolutely none. And you can quote me on that."

Pelletier, who is still a Derry police officer, said that anyone who doubts Pamela Wojas Smart's role in her husband's death need only listen to the tapes made of her conversations with Pierce.

"She put herself away with her own voice," Pelletier said Friday. "All you have to do is hear her talking to her cohorts about what happened. But she'll tell you she was conducting her own

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investigation into the murder. (He laughs again.) No, there's no doubt in my mind that she's guilty."

Pamela Smart is asking a Rockingham County Superior Court judge to set aside her conviction and release her from prison. A hearing will be held Thursday at 9 a.m. in Brentwood.

Pelletier said he doesn't understand how, after her original appeal was rejected five years ago, she can be back with another.

"The thing that amazes me is that she's doing all this at the taxpayers' expense," Pelletier said. (Smart's attorneys are paid for by her family). "We're paying for her to be in prison anyway. Now we're paying for her to come here and have all these hearings."

Pelletier said that transporting a prisoner is not a cheap proposition.

"You've got to send at least two people," he said. With travel time round trip, the use of a state police cruiser and the salaries of the officers, "it adds up."

"And who's paying for that? We are," he said.

Pelletier said he has no desire to involve himself again with the Pamela Smart saga.

"After my picture was in all the papers, I couldn't go grocery shopping for a month without people stopping me," he said. "No. There are many more important things for me to be doing now."

State police would not divulge Smart's travel schedule, citing security reasons. She is expected to be in New Hampshire at least two or three days, and will likely spend Wednesday night in the Rockingham County jail.

CITY ARSON